introduction into Mysore of the new Cattle Trespass Act and desired that the special provisions of the Act for levying higher rates of fine and for holding negligent owners of cattle responsible, may be made applicable to the Coffee Districts.

Dewan's reply.—The Deputy Commissioners of Hassan and Kadur will be asked to submit proposals in this behalf.

Subject No. 7.

Uniformity of weights and measures.

On this subject, Mr. Graham Anderson (Coffee Planter R. M. from South Mysore Planters' Association) said that the primitive and most irregular methods and contrivances adopted in small shops and bazaars for weighing and measuring commodities are a constant source of loss and annoyance to the poorer classes and manifest the necessity for introduction of a regulation prohibiting the use of local and unverified weights and measures. The so-called Kolaga used for determining the quantity of unhusked grain varies to such an extent that it is extremely rare to find two of the same capacity, and it may be truly styled the most unsatisfactory measure in the country. Representatives from the Districts of Shimoga Kadur, Chitaldroog, Kolar and Hassan also had representations to make to the same effect.

Dewan's reply.—A law applicable to the whole of India is under the consideration of the Government of India and the Darbar have to await the action of that Government. Meanwhile the orders contained in Government Proceedings No. 2812-21—G. F. 178-92, dated 18th August 1892, are all that is practicable. This order directs the Deputy Commissioners to give effect to the late Chief Commissioner's Proceedings No. 5084—G. 832, dated the 18th August 1876, pending the introduction of a regulation on the subject, and to obtain standards of weights and measures in ordinary use from the Bangalore Central Jail and keep them in places where they shall be accessible to all for purposes of test.

Subjects connected with the Gold Mining Industry.

Subject No. 8.

Special legislation for prevention of thefts in the Gold Fields.

Mr. R. Collins (R. M. from the Kolar Gold Mining Board) addressed the Dewan and said that so much has been granted during the past year that the Mining Board had more to thank the Government for benefits received, than to ask for further assistance; there were, however, two subjects which had been submitted for discussion, *viz.*, special legislation for the protection of gold quartz, amalgam and sponge gold or gold in the course of preparation and the repair of the roads. With reference to special legislation the Dewan had stated at the last Assembly that the question of a modified Act would be pressed upon the consideration of the Government of India. Since then the Board had received no information on the subject and still labor under the difficulty of

securing convictions in cases where from the similarity of the quartz and gold of the various Companies, it is impossible to identify it as the property of any particular Company. At present, within a radius of three miles there are five Companies producing in the aggregate, monthly, gold to the value of £ 68,000 or nearly 11 lakhs of rupees; the quartz, amalgam and sponge gold from all these Companies, are identical, and unless the culprit is caught red-handed on the spot, it is impossible for the agent of any Company to identify the gold in whatever form it may be, though there may be ample evidence to satisfy the Court that it came from one or more of the Companies on the field. When convictions are quashed by the Higher Court, careful note is made of such rulings and the weak points in the judgments (the cases on the field being almost identical) are set up as pleas in subsequent cases, which renders it very difficult for the Magistrate to convict. Under such circumstances there is greater need than ever for special legislation. The Board were aware that the draft of an Act had been submitted to the Imperial Government, but failing to obtain this, they desire that for their relief a short Act may be framed for the protection of gold quartz, amalgam and sponge gold or gold in the course of preparation, throwing the onus of proof of legal possession on the person in whose possession or on whose premises the same may be found or in other words, that it shall be for the persons in whose possession or on whose premises such articles may be found to satisfy the Court that they obtained it in an honest manner. In support of the expediency of such an Act, the speaker referred to a case which happened at Madras some time ago where a cooly who had come from the Gold fields was detected at the Railway station to have in his possession a considerable amount of gold; he was arrested and charged and failing to account for its possession to the satisfaction of the Court, the gold was confiscated and the man sentenced to six months' imprisonment. This conviction Mr. Collins understood to have been under the Madras Police Act.

As regards roads, the opening of the Railway to the mines will reduce the traffic over the roads to a minimum and it will also relieve the Government of the very heavy expenditure hitherto entailed in their upkeep. It will, however, still be necessary to use the road for communication between the respective Camps as well as occasional journeys to Kolar Road and other places in that direction. The Board therefore pray that it may now be put into good repair by the distribution of the materials already collected, after which the attention and expenditure required to maintain it will be small. Mr. Collins went on to say "During the past year we have to acknowledge "the consideration and assistance of the Government in the "following important matters:—

" I. The construction of the Railway.
" II. Investing the Special Magistrates with Civil powers.
"III. Strengthening the Police Force.
"IV. Sanitary Establishment for the conservancy of the field and adjoining villages,

" and in conclusion on behalf of the Kolar Gold Field Mining " Board, I beg to thank the Government of His Highness the " Maharaja for the courteous manner it has always received " our applications, and for the attention paid to the requests " contained therein."

Dewan's reply.—The Dewan quite agreed that the Darbar are prepared to adopt a Regulation within the limited scope described by Mr. Collins and within defined areas. The Darbar were prepared to take action and this action of special legislation in regard to throwing the onus of proof on suspected parties for satisfactory explanation of how they came to be in possession of quartz, &c., went up once before the Government of India. But the Darbar were advised to await the Legislation of that Government in this matter. The Darbar would try to re-open the question and send up a draft of a short enactment.

Subject No. 9.

Points connected with the Dasara Representative Assembly.

Various suggestions having a bearing on the constitution and working of the Dasara Representative Assembly were made in the course of a desultory talk which began on a proposal that the Assembly should be allowed to elect two or more members to His Highness the Maharaja's Council and that His Highness the Maharaja should preside at the meeting of this Council. These suggestions may be summarized as follows :—

(1) The present property qualification for membership is too high and should be reduced.

(2) Pleaders possessing lands and houses though below the prescribed property qualification, should be declared eligible for membership.

(3) The different interests such as commercial, manufacturing, &c., should be adequately represented in the Dasara Representative Assembly and with this view a proportion should be fixed between the numbers of professional and educated men in the Assembly.

(4) People who have no knowledge of Laws and Regulations, and Government servants should be considered ineligible for membership.

(5) Members should be elected six months before Dasara, *i. e.*, before the meeting of the Assembly.

(6) Government servants should be allowed to vote in the election of members for the Assembly.